THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 50. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Feb. 28th, at 3 p.m.—Hyde Park —Mr. E. Duval. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—**Bow Baths—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Lady Emily Lutyens.**
Monday, Mar. 1st, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall.—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Chesley..
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—Hackney, Powerscroft Rd. Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Cotton St.—Mrs. Drake and others.
Tuesday, Mar. 2nd, 3.0 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m. — Poplar Women's Hall — Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Miss Barry.
Wednesday, Mar. 3rd, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Drake.
Thursday, Mar. 4th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Mrs. Schlette.
8 p.m.—Bow Obelisk—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Friday, Mar. 5th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Mrs. Thompson.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Members' Meeting.
Sunday, Mar. 7th, 8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. E. Duval. Chair; Mrs. Drake.

THE POPLAR SUFFRAGE CLUB,

20 Railway Street, Poplar, E., open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 7 to 10. All women welcome. Membership fee, 1d. a month. Members of the E.L.F.S. free.

We wish to appeal for Books and illustrated papers for the Poplar Suffrage Club.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor attendances and baby weighing—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town.

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.) Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, garments and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

Special—"Dreadnought" £500 Fund.

Already acknowleged	£6 1s.
Mrs. M. R. Mackenzie	£2 0s.

GREAT PROCESSION AND DEMONSTRATION

TO PROTEST AGAINST RISE IN FOOD PRICES.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

START EAST INDIA DOCK GATES, 1.30 p.m. (Beckton Road, 1.15.)

"Salmon and Ball," 2 p.m.
Mile End Waste, 2.30 p.m.
Gardiner's Corner, 3 p.m.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE, 4 p.m.

Join the E.L.F.S. Contingent !

WORKING WOMEN PAY THE PRICE.

Dear Editor,—Harder and harder gets the struggle each week to keep the home together; more and more does it make us think. The other week I was asked to attend a committee meeting at the school to explain why I could not afford to pay the 1s. fine for teeth. I don't think you would want much explaining to, dear editor, but these are the figures I gave the committee (a man, of course) :—

Husband's wages 25s. per week, 4d. Insurance, 6d. Sick Club, 3d. Trade Union, leaving 23s. 11d. to start with.

	Before the War. s	d
Rent	6	0
Bread	5	0
Boots	1	0
Clothes	1	0
Coals	1	6
Insurance	1	0

Total 15s. 6d., leaving 8s. 5d. to keep six people in all other things for a week. That's without baby. A member of the committee asked if I had any children at work. I said the eldest was 10. He asked did I do any work myself. *(Hardly!)*

I asked did he mean go out to work, because I believed the woman's place, as they so often told us, was the home! and in the home I meant to stay. Then he asked whether the children have their dinners at school. I said "No, I detest charity and prefer to get them their meals at home."

My husband is a teetotaler, and gives up every farthing; but I know it to be an impossibility to keep, clothe, and pay rent for seven people on 25s. per week at present.

A READER.

To the Editor of WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

May I send these few lines through your little paper; small though it may be, it is worth all the Dreadnoughts of England, Germany, or any other nation, if it only peeps into one poor home and enlightens one poor woman. What a life for a poor mother of to-day to think that her boys, that she faced death to bring into this world, fought and struggled to bring them up as decent as she could, should be snatched away, many to certain death, without the sanction even of their dearest friend, their mother. My mother was left a widow very soon, has worked and slaved to keep her home together, and bring up my sister and I and two brothers. My sister and I are now married, with little families, and just when my brothers were helping my mother a bit, they are dragged into this War—sent off to the front. What are they doing for my mother? What miserable pittance are they allowing her for her sleepless nights, her days of waiting in misery and suspense? When will the women wake out of their slumber?

Yours, etc.,
A WORKING WOMAN.

3s. a head for EVERYTHING.

Dear Miss Pankhurst,—I am writing on behalf of a friend, Mrs. B., who is in straitened circumstances through the War. Her children, last Tuesday, had nothing to eat till 6 o clock in the evening, until she went to 400 Old Ford Road to get some soup and milk for the baby, for which she is very thankful. Her children, of which there are five, went short of food before the War, but since the outbreak of the War, food has risen so high that they get less than before.

The only food they get is bread and butter, and not enough of that to keep the body properly nourished. The wages she receives from her husband is 17s. and 4s. she earns herself, making a total of 21s. per week for man and wife, and five children to exist on. How can a Government expect children to grow up to serve their country when they are half-starved in their infancy?

	Prices of things Before war s.	d.	During war s.	d.
Rent	7	6	7	6
1½ cwt. of coals ...	2	0	3	0
Soap	0	3	0	3½
Gas	1	0	1	0
¼-lb. Tea	0	7	0	9
3-lbs. Sugar ...	0	5½	0	10½
9-qtn. Bread ...	3	9	5	7½
3 tins milk at 2½d.	0	7½		
" " 3d.			0	9
2-lbs. Margarine	1	0		
" " at 8d.			1	4
Soap and Blue ...	0	1½	0	1½
Wood	0	2	0	2
Sundries	0	6	0	6
Meat	2	0	no meat	
Total	19	11½	20	0

You see the accounts will not balance although they have given up meat.—J.S.

Starving on the Old Age Pension.

An old couple, over 80 years, both getting old age pension :—

	Before War began. s	d		*After.* s	d
Rent	1	9		1	9
Coal	2	0	... ...	2	6
Oil	0	9	... ...	0	9
Meat & Vegetbls.	2	0	... ...	2	6
Tea	0	6	Cheaper quality	0	6
Sugar	0	3½	... ...	0	6
Butter	0	6	... ...	0	6
Soap, etc. ...	0	6	... ...	0	6
Bread	0	6	... ...	1	0
	8	9½		10	6

Leaving 1s. 2½d. for extras. The old woman has had to pawn almost everything to make up extra sixpences. The balance for extras has disappeared. They have to do with less coal, meat, and other things.

"Poor every-day living."

Dear Editor,—I have been asked by Miss R. if I minded sending a budget of food prices before the War and after. I have a family of four little children, and this is the experience of just poor every day living :—

	Before the War. s	d	*Since the War.* s	d
14 loaves Bread at 2½d.	2	11	4	8
1¾ cwts. of Coal ...	2	4	3	6
1 lb. of Meat	0	6	0	9
½ quartern of Flour...	0	2½	0	4½
½ lb. of Tea	0	8	0	10
3½ lbs. of Sugar ...	0	5½	0	10½
1 tin of Milk	0	4	0	5
Rent	6	0	6	0
Insurance	1	0	1	0
A week ...	14	4½	18	5

BOW BATHS, Sunday, Feb. 28,

AT 8 P.M.

A LECTURE

BY LADY EMILY LUTYENS,

ON

The Theosophic Ideal.

CHAIR: MISS S. PANKHURST.

ADMISSION FREE.

A Sweated Worker's Budget.

Dear Editor,—Miss R. asked me to send you a budget to show how I manage on 11s. 6d. a week :—

	Before the War. s	d	*Since the War.* s	d
Rent	2	0	2	0
1 lb. Sugar	0	1¾	0	3
Tin of Milk	0	3	0	3½
½ cwt. Coals	0	8	1	0
1 qrt. Paraffin ...	0	2½	0	4
7 bundles of Wood ...	0	3½	0	5¼
1 lb. Meat (Sunday) ...	0	6	0	9
4 lbs. Potatoes ...	0	2	0	2½
3 Loaves	0	6¾	1	0
National Insurance ...	0	3	0	3
½ lb. Margarine ...	0	4	0	4

It costs me 1s. a week to get a little for dinner each day near my work.

In addition to this I pay 1s. for a little furniture I had when I began to live alone, and 3d. a week for soap, soda, etc. Out of 11s. 6d. I have 2s. for boots and clothes.

Ends that don't meet.

Dear Editor,—I am writing you to let you know how some of us in Bromley have to exist since the prices of food and coal have gone up. My husband is a casual labourer, earning sometimes £1 2s. 6d., sometimes a little more when he is able. Sometimes I hardly know how to make both ends meet, as I have five children, the eldest not yet twelve, and the youngest one year and five months, and I am expecting another one in June. This is how I spend my money :—

	Before the War. £	s	d		*After.* £	s	d
Rent ...	0	5	6	...	0	5	6
Coals ...	0	1	2	...	0	2	0
3 Loaves a day, at 2½d. each	0	4	4½	...	0	7	0
4 lbs. of Flour per week	0	0	7	2lbs. Flour	0	0	4
Gas ...	0	0	9	...	0	0	9
Insurance	0	0	9	...	0	0	9
Milk, ½ pt. of morning for a week	0	0	7	Tin of Milk	0	0	3½
18lbs. of Potatoes for the week	0	0	6	12lbs. cost	0	0	7½
1½lbs. Margarine	0	0	10	...	0	0	10
Meat ...	0	2	6	...	0	3	6
Tea, 6ozs. week	0	0	6	...	0	0	7½
Sugar, 4 lbs. at 1½d. lb. a week	0	0	7	3lbs. now costs	0	0	9
Odds and ends	0	1	0	...	0	1	0
	£1	2	7½		£1	3	11½

I have pawned many things to make up the difference, but that cannot go on, and we have gone without much we used to have.

GIVING WITH ONE HAND—

The "War Bonus" offered to the London dock labourers is an excellent illustration of the need for Government intervention in the matter of food prices. As an offset against the increased cost of living the dockers are to be paid a bonus of 3s. a week, or 6d. a day extra. The *Times* adds—

"In view of the increased expenditure incurred by the Authority (P.L.A.), the schedule of rates and charges on shipping and goods is being revised."

This will be made an excuse for higher prices in bread and other foodstuffs which are partly imported, and the docker's wife will speedily find that the extra 3s. is swallowed up in this way, leaving her no better off than she is now. Nothing but Government intervention will be any good.

WOMEN! JOIN THE
East London Federation of the Suffragettes —
WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

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No. 50.—Saturday, Feb. 27th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

"THE DEVIL TAKE THE HINDERMOST."

The Government has refused to take any action to keep down the food prices. Mr. Asquith callously declares that the cruel law of supply and demand, which means the triumph of the most powerful and unscrupulous, and the crushing of the weakest, must continue to dominate the situation.

"Fight for your own material interests, regardless of your fellows" is, in effect, the advice of the Government to the people in the hour of National crisis. And since the Government has refused to regulate the struggle for making money out of the nation's difficulties, the majority of the people must perforce follow this harsh piece of advice, or be pushed down below the poverty line.

The strong Trade Unions in all parts of the country, especially those whose members are engaged in work on which the Government depends for military necessities, are demanding increases of pay to meet the rising cost of living: 10,000 Clyde dockers are on strike.

In many districts increased pay has been secured by carters, dockers, engineers, employees of gas and railway companies, and others. But though in some cases the increases amount to 4s. a week, as a rule they are no more than 1s. or 2s., and even the greatest increase in wages received does not compensate for the higher cost of necessaries. Moreover, the majority of the workers throughout the country have received no increase of pay, and those whose work is precarious at the best of times will probably fear to strike. Old age pensioners and recipients of Poor Law and other relief doles cannot strike, and must either starve in patience or riotously help themselves to the necessities of life.

Yet it is true that at the present time the strike has become a more compelling weapon in the hands of the workers in certain industries than it has ever been before. If a couple of million men are in the Army, there are the fewer skilled workers to replace any who may decide to go on strike. And the Government must have ships, guns, food, boots, and clothes for its troops; the Government cannot afford that there shall be delay.

Sweated women, makers of khaki suits and bandoleers, remember this! The Government has refused to fix decent rates of pay for you, though they have fixed profitable rates of pay for the contractors who employ you. They have been paying a man at the rate of £60,000 a year to buy timber for them. Remember that if you will act unitedly you can more easily force them to pay you a little more of what is due to you, **just now,** than you ever could before.

The Government has refused to interfere with the big business interests that are forcing up the prices of things that are necessary both for the maintenance of the people at home and the prosecution of the War abroad. But, though Mr. Runciman told Labour Members of Parliament, who asked the Government to keep down food prices, that the best way to meet the higher cost of living is to raise wages, the Government is forging for itself a weapon to prevent the workers from striking for increased wages. It proposed to introduce compulsory arbitration, and a statement has been issued from which the following is an extract:—

> "With a view to preventing loss of production caused by disputes between employers and workpeople, no stoppage of work by strike or lock-out should take place on work for Government purposes. In the event of differences arising which fail to be settled by the parties directly concerned, or by their representatives, or under any existing agreements, the matter shall be referred to an impartial tribunal nominated by his Majesty's Government for immediate investigation and report to the Government with a view to a settlement."

The so-called "impartial tribunal" consists of three Permanent Officials: Sir George Askwith (Board of Trade), Sir Francis Hopwood (Admiralty), and Sir George Gibb (War Office).

Working women, can you trust these Government officials to protect your interests? What do they know of you and your lives?

You have had no voice in electing the Government that controls them, and can therefore bring no political pressure to bear either on them or the Government.

We want to know what form of compulsion is to be used against those who refuse to abide by the decisions of these gentlemen.

Working women you cannot afford to leave your interests to be guarded by other people, you, yourselves, must fight together to protect your interests. You must strive as hard as you can for the Vote, which, if you combine in sufficient numbers to use it properly, will make it possible for you to sweep away the poverty and misery around you, and to change absolutely the management of our National affairs.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

In a divorce action, brought in the Edinburgh Court of Session, which was decided against the respondent and co-respondent the other day, the co-respondent was referred to throughout as Mr. X, because "*his position was such that he could not afford to have his name dragged into the case.*"

Women are not thus shielded from the consequences of their own acts.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM ACT.

We are profoundly dissatisfied with the Government's proposals to amend the Defence of the Realm Act. The *Manchester Guardian* says that the Government has not gone so far in amending the Act as it would like, but that in order to meet the views of the Conservative opposition, has adopted a middle course between the present provisions of the Act and the restoration of the complete supremacy of the Civil law as it existed before the passage of the Defence of the Realm Act.

This is the sort of excuse that some Liberals always make for a so-called Liberal Government that proves, as this one has done, to be reactionary. But the Defence of the Realm Act is of the Government's own drafting, and their followers cannot pretend that any but the Government should bear the blame.

In its proposals for amending their Defence of the Realm Act, the Government makes it plain that in cases of grave emergency or circumstances of exceptional difficulty, Martial law shall supersede the Civil law. Martial law may be introduced in any district where and as the Government may think fit.

Under ordinary circumstances where the Civil Courts are still available, any accused person of British birth may be tried by the Civil law, if he or she claims to be so tried within four days from the time "when the general nature of the charge was first communicated."

Why is this provision made at all? Why, when the Civil Courts are available, should there be any question of court martial for the ordinary civil population?

The Attorney General said that there is no reason now why the right of trial by the ordinary tribunals should not be restored. Why not restore it then, intact? This new regulation which forces an accused person to claim the right to a civil trial, or to forfeit it, is either stupid and unnecessary, or is a dangerous power which may be used unjustly towards poor and ignorant people. Already unfortunate women have been cruelly dealt with under this Act.

The Government proposes that only British subjects shall have the right to claim a trial by the ordinary Court, and Sir J. Simon said that he was "sure no one would suggest" that this "*privilege* should be conferred on enemy aliens."

The Times reports that Members of Parliament said "hear, hear" to that. We are sorry that they should have done so, and, as women, we should be glad that we had no part in electing these men. What an idea of the British sense of fair-play this will give to the other countries!

Surely we should be unanimous in the wish to secure absolute justice for every person tried within our shores, however mean, despicable, as hostile to ourselves that person may chance to be. Surely the very fact that we may be in danger of feeling racial or political prejudice should make us specially scrupulous in this.

Justice, we must remind you Sir John Simon, is no "*privilege*" but a right!

GERMAN WOMEN RIOT.

An Exchange telegram states that rioting by women has taken place at Schönberg, in Germany. The municipal authorities had announced a sale of cheap potatoes to soldiers' wives. After waiting a long time the women were told that only those who could produce a receipt for the last payment of their taxes might buy potatoes. The women returned to their homes for these papers, but were then told that only those might have potatoes who had a white card given to them. At this, the Exchange telegram says: "The cards were torn out of the hands of the officials, and the infuriated women, after thrashing the latter, rushed pell mell for the municipal buildings, which they stormed and partially destroyed."

PLIGHT OF A SOLDIER'S WIFE.

The case of the soldier's young wife, Muriel Scott, who tried to commit suicide because she was destitute, and was not eligible for separation allowance, reminds us of the fact that in time of peace provision was made by the Government for only 4 per cent. of the wives and children of our soldiers, and that large numbers of them lived lives of very desperate poverty.

Before taking poison this young woman wrote:—

> I would not have done this, but I am all alone in this cruel world, and it is only those who have great sorrows who know how very cruel people can be. I feel that I am growing mad.

Enclosed in the letter was a communication to her from the Royal Garrison Artillery Records Office, which ran:—

> I have to inform you that wives of non-commissioned officers and men married without leave, whose husbands are serving in India—and Aden is part of India so far as the administration of Army funds are concerned—are not at present liable to draw separation allowances. You are, however, by obtaining a magistrate's order, entitled to claim a compulsory stoppage of 6d. per diem from the pay of your husband for support.

Inquiry showed that she had been employed as a lady's maid, but owing to her mistress taking up Red Cross work she had been thrown out of employment. She had earned a few shillings at a factory.

This young woman had only herself to keep, though she had lost her work through the War, but many a soldier's wife has little children dependent on her. Surely the allowances which have been fixed alike for the families of the men fighting at the front, the men training in camp, the old soldiers who are merely guarding bridges and tunnels for "home defence," should be extended also to the families of soldiers in India and elsewhere. Surely, after the War is over, the nation does not intend to go back to the bad old plan, of ignoring the existence of the wives and children of the majority of the soldiers, on the ground that the men were not given permission to marry on the strength.

INCREDIBLY MEAN.

In the House of Commons on February 17th, Mr. Neild stated that Mrs. Martha Sarah Gardner, wife of Sapper Gardner, No. 46,216, has been refused separation allowance, on the ground that she was not living with her husband at the time of his enlistment; that sapper Gardner had deserted his wife and four children on the 11th February 1911, and thereby compelled them to enter the workhouse. Notwithstanding every effort, Mrs. Gardner failed to discover her husband's address, but after the outbreak of the War, she discovered that he had enlisted in the Royal Engineers. On December 7th last, the record office of the Regiment informed her that they were unable to grant her her separation allowance, owing to her husband's allegation that he had been unable to live with her owing to her infidelity. Sapper Gardner being summoned to appear at Tower Bridge Police Court on January 6th last, produced to the magistrate a letter written by the major commanding the 62nd (Field) Company, Royal Engineers, asking for the adjournment of the summons for maintenance until after the War, in order that separation allowance might be paid to Mrs. Gardner, a course which, with her assent, the magistrate adopted, stating that Mrs. Gardner had not deserted her husband, but had been deserted by him, and that, no separation order having been made, she was entitled to the allowance. At the hearing before the magistrate, Sapper Gardner unreservedly withdrew the allegation of infidelity previously made by him. Seeing the impossibility of tracing Gardner before his enlistment, and therefore of obtaining an order for maintenance and every payment thereunder, Mr. Neild asked the Under Secretary of State to direct that separation allowance and arrears should be paid to Mrs. Gardner as though she had duly obtained an order for maintenance and received payment thereunder? Mr. Baker repled: "It appears that Mrs. Gardner was not, in fact, maintained by her husband for a consider-

able period before the War, and lost nothing by his enlistment. In these circumstances separation allowance is not issuable."

Mr. Nield said: "Does not the hon. gentleman see that the man deserted and secreted himself and she could not find him to summons him for maintenance? That is the whole gist of the complaint."

Mr. Baker said: "Under the Regulations, separation allowance is not payable when there has been no maintenance by the husband."

If this case were not offically recorded in Hansard, one could scarcely believe it to be true. It is amazing that even an exclusively man-made Government should thus dishonestly withhold a poor woman's allowance, because her husband has misused her. We suppose Mr. Harold Baker considers himself a gentleman, but after making the above replys he ought to be ashamed to look any decent man or woman in the face, and we hope that decent people will cut him as he deserves.

In the House of Commons on February 18th, Mr. Harold Baker, refused to pay separation allowances to the dependents of those soldiers who were killed before the Government agreed to go on paying the allowances until it is prepared to begin paying pensions.

This means that the dependents of the men who first went to the War and were killed during the early months must go without until pensions begin to be paid.

"NO DELAY" (?)

Mrs. Winifred Coombe Tennant of Neath, writing to the *Daily News* on February 21st said:—

Mrs. M. is the mother of a soldier who allots her 2s. 4d. a week that she may receive separation allowance. Here is her chronological history:

1st week in December.—She receives A.F. 01839 to fill up and return to Regimental Paymaster.

Mid-December.—Is interviewed by Pensions Officer.

January 3rd 1915.—Clerk to local Pensions Committee informs me her claim passed on to Regimental Paymaster "a long time since."

January 10th.—I write to Regimental Paymaster to inquire why Mrs. M. receives nothing.

January 12th.—He replies that owing to the "exceptional nature of the claim" same has been forwarded to the War Office for consideration.

January 15th.—I inquire in what way Mrs. M.'s claim is exceptional.

January 16th.—Paymaster replies the term was incorrectly used in the hurry of the moment, and states that "the claim was submitted to the War Office in accordance with their regulations laid down with regard to these cases where a difference occurs between the Pensions Officer and the Pensions Committee."

January 24th.—I write to the War Office asking when Mrs. M.'s case will be referred back to Regimental Paymaster.

(No reply received to this letter.)

February 10th.—I write again to Regimental Paymaster, Mrs. M. having received nothing.

February 12th.—Regimental Paymaster replies: "The claim was forwarded on to the War Office on January 12th," and that he expects "their report in a day or so. Upon receipt of this, same will immediately receive my attention."

It is now February 21st, and Mrs. M. is still without any separation allowance, though her son's pay is being docked week by week of 2s. 4d. she is not even receiving that. This is a bare statement of facts. Of the human misery and strain involved I will not write.

Since the War began policemen have only had one day's rest in fourteen instead of in seven. In the House of Commons on February 22nd, Mr. Will Thorne asked whether they were to be paid for the extra day they are made to serve, but Mr. McKenna evaded the point and said: "The police may rely upon it that with the assistance of the Commissioner I shall watch their interests closely and sympathetically."

Like voteless women the police would no doubt prefer something more substantial than sympathy. Even without the extra days of duty, the increased cost of living would make an increase in their low pay advisable.

WAR RISKS OF SHIPS' CREWS.

BENEFITS AS IN NAVY.

The President of the Board of Trade announces that such British crews of British merchant vessels as may lose life or limb owing to attacks by warships, submarines, or aircraft, shall receive the scale of benefits payable to the men or dependents of men of similar rank in the Royal Navy.

These will take the place of lesser payments under the Workmen's Compensation Act, for the amounts of which the shipowners will continue to be liable, the additional sums necessary to provide the naval scale of benefits to merchant seamen being provided from the War Risks Insurance Fund.

SOLDIER'S WIFE EJECTED.

A Haversham farmer is turning a soldier's wife out of one of his cottages as he wants it for another labourer who has taken the soldier's place. The woman has three children and is expecting a fourth. "Where am I to go if I am turned out?" she cried. The farmer's reply was that his cows must be milked. He would lose money if they were not (good money too, with milk at 4½d. a quart). The magistrate said: "But you must put up with that; everyone is in the same boat." Nevertheless he granted an ejectment order, which forces the soldier's wife to leave in 28 days.

Why did the magistrate grant this order? Under the Emergency Courts Act he had the power to refuse it?

Several similar cases have occurred recently. These are cases in which the Home Secretary should be called upon to intervene.

A VOTE FOR EVERY MAN OR WOMAN OVER 21.

It is interesting to note that in taking a vote of the border parishes, in regard to the Welsh Church Act, to decide whether these parishes should be counted Welsh or English, all men and women over 21 years, whether married or unmarried, who have either lived or have been ratepayers in the parishes for more than twelve months, have been allowed to vote. The machinery of the census was used, the local registrars of births and deaths, with enumerators appointed by them, distributed the voting papers.

The fact that every woman over 21 voted on equal terms with men, is a happy augury. But we do not know why non-resident ratepayers were given votes, for presumably the question was as to whether they would prefer to go to church or chapel.

VOTES FOR SERVICE.

On February 18th, Lord Charles Beresford asked the Prime Minister whether he would consider the advisability of arranging that every man who has volunteered for the War, and so risks his life for the service and defence of his country, shall be entitled at the age of 21, to a Parliamentary vote during his lifetime, irrespective of other qualifications.

Mr. Henry Terrell asked the Government to introduce a bill with this object, and to give the House a day to discuss this, and also the advisability of disfranchising men who refuse to enlist, unless physically unfit.

Mr. Asquith promised that the suggestions "will be duly considered."

We do not anticipate any result from this, but should the Government decide to take such action, women will certainly insist that they also, without further delay, shall be enfranchised at the age of 21, for whilst they are not held to be physically suited for war, they perform various vitally important services to the community.

The Manchester Guardian reports that any man engaged on Naval or Military work who strikes or gives notice to strike will be immediately compelled to join the Army in the field.

ENDANGERING US ALL!

A return was made in the House of Commons recently of cases of disease, and deaths therefrom, amongst the troops:—Typhoid fever, 887 cases, 96 deaths; smallpox, 1 case, deaths nil; scarlet fever, 1,575 cases, 26 deaths; dyptheria, 783 cases, 6 deaths; measles, 1,220 cases, 67 deaths; dysentry, 215 cases, 1 death; pneumonia, 1,508 cases, 301 deaths; cerebro spinal meningitis, 62 cases, 26 deaths. In the case of smallpox, dyptheria, dysentry, pneumonia, and spinal meningitis the figures given apply to the troops still in England only. In connection with this it is interesting to note that the Home Secretary has instructed Local Authorities to arrange for "close and special attention to be paid by their officers to premises where Army clothing is being made," in order to avoid the transmission of infectious disease in this way. This is, of course, specially aimed at the miserably-paid outworker. If the Home Office devoted more attention to the wages paid for such work they would ultimately effect far more than the factory inspector can do. People do not live by choice in ill-ventilated insanitary dwellings, where disease breeds and spreads—they are forced to do so by poverty. And while sweated wages continue to be paid to outworkers so long will the lives of the troops and of all who wear the clothing so made be endangered by preventable disease.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT IN DEEDS.

In the "Special" department of a Leeds clothing factory, recently, one girl earned £2 10s., though the average in that department was £1 4s. The employer said: "that is not a woman's wage but a man's," and he docked a penny of the piecework rates for one part of a soldier's tunic.

Half an hour later the women in the "Special" department handed in notices to leave when the work was finished. The employer offered to give a halfpenny back, but the vast majority of women remained firm.

Ten of the women have written to the Yorkshire Press explaining their position and declaring that the women will not go back to the factory on any consideration. They say: "We know perfectly well that every employer has the same amount of money for the work to enable him to pay a reasonable price, and as workers we do not intend to undercut our fellows by working under price. The employers are preparing for the slump when peace is declared, by making good profits, and the employees should also be allowed to prepare by making good wages."

London women employed on khaki work, would do well to notice the stand which the women of Leeds are making; few of them are able to earn the £1 4s. a week which the women in the Leeds "Special" department say is their average.

The Paddington Local Distress Committee report that the district price for finishing soldiers' trousers is 1¼d. or 1½d. a pair and that capable workers take at least an hour to finish each pair.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. A. B. Hughes 5.0, Mr. & Mrs. Elliott 4.0, Mrs. & Miss Ashby (monthly) 4.0, Miss Brindley 2.6, Miss Heath 2.6, Miss Hutchinson 1.0, Miss Joslin 0.6, Mrs. Black 0.6.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS:—Collection at Mrs. Sadd Brown's 'At Home' 18.8.0, Miss Buchan 10.0.0, Miss Juliet Reckitt 5.5.0, "The Herald" Printing and Publishing Co. 4.3.3, Collection at Mrs. Hartley Wither's 'At Home' 3.14.6, Mrs. W. Edwards (5.0 weekly) 3.5.0, per John Scurr—Garw Miners, Pontycymmer, 1.1.0, Miss C. Gregory (5.0 monthly) 1.0.0, Mrs. Grier 1.0.0, Monteith Road School, per Mrs. Rawlings) 11.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Miss M. Aldis 10.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Anon, Hornsey (weekly) 10.0, G. A. Weller, Esq., 10.0, Miss E. E. Weller 10.0, P. E. Harbott, Esq., 10.0, H. W. Dickinson, Esq., 10.0, Miss Chelsey 8.0, Miss I. Jones (2.0 weekly) 6.0, Miss E. Getsam 5.8, Mrs. Vatcher (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Taylor (fortnightly) 5.0, X.Y.Z. 5.0, Mrs. Turner 3.0, Misses Green 3.0, per Miss I. Jones 3.0, Mrs. Powles 2.6, Mrs. Dewsnap 2.6, Miss M. Cann 2.6, Mrs. Granger's Women's Club (monthly) 2.6, A Woman Worker (Stockport) 2.6, Mrs. Morton 2.6, A Dane 2.0, Anon (Croydon) 2.0, "A Widow's mite" 2.0, Cuckoo 2.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0.

COLLECTIONS.—Mrs. Parsons 2.6.1½, Mrs. Bird (outside Green's) 10.0½, Mrs. McCheyne 8.2, Member's meeting, Women's Hall 6.2½, Mrs. Drake (outside Spratt's) 6.1, Mrs Hardy 4.6, Nurse Wolfe 3.8½, Miss K. Lagsding (outside Green's) 3.3½, Mrs. Bird (Symes' meeting) 2.8½, Canning Town Milk collection 1.6½.

BELL-BOXES, MANCHESTER.—Mrs. Hyde 14.0, Miss Arensberg 3.0, Mr. & Mrs. Merrick 3.0, Miss B. Joyce 2.0.

CLOTHES.—Mrs. Gibbes, Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Macfarlane, The Misses Halliday-Gibson, Miss E. Hewitt, Miss E. Moore, Miss Mildred Hay, Mrs. Hartley, Baby Lovers' Club, Mrs. E. Mitchell, Miss K. Macklin.

AT SWEATING RATES.

A home-worker writing to the *Daily Chronicle* says:

"That the usual price for making single yoke shirts (like the soldier's) is 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. a dozen? And that the best shirts, lined and fronted, are only 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.? Thousands of shirts are make in this country and sent to Johannesburg, single yoke, two pockets, and turned-down collars, at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per dozen, and the worker finds her own cotton and machine?

"Speaking for myself and a good many more, we should be glad to get 3s. per dozen, as that would be a big increase in the prices now paid."

A woman worker—mother of six children—made (one continous period of 4½ hours) seven soldiers' bags, for which she is paid 5½d.—less than 1¼d. an hour. The material is hard and very heavy to handle. The firm she works for finds the cotton, but she finds the needles of which she has sometimes broken as many as 6d. worth a day, owing to the character of the material. These broken needles are therefore equivalent to over four hours wasted work.

The receipt form which this woman was required to sign on being paid for her work was an ordinary piece of paper, which might be torn from a note-book. It had no name on it; simply the figures "24—9d.—1s. 6d.," "12—1s. 9d.—1s. 9d.," with the word "paid" in between the figures. Neither the nature of the articles paid for, the name of the worker, nor that of the employer was given.

She said there were 100 persons being paid the same rates.

A young girl who has just left school, was engaged upon Army work from eight o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night, with one hour interval for dinner and half an hour for tea. On Saturdays her hours were from eight until one, making in all 57½ hours per week. For this she was paid 2s. 6d. per week wages. Of course, there may be some reason for the low rate of pay to a beginner, but what about the hours?

The House Workers League gives the following facts and figures:—

The rate of pay for Army toothbrushes is 5d. a dozen. It is impossible to make more than half a dozen in an hour—which means a wage of 2½d. an hour.

Soldiers' shirts are being paid for at 3s. a dozen. A worker affirms that the cotton (which she has to find) costs 6d. for a dozen shirts, which makes the net earnings 2s. 6d. a dozen. The shirts take an hour each to make—again making the wage 2½d. an hour.

BAD CONDITIONS AT SPRATTS.

To the Editor of WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Many girls are employed at Spratts' biscuit factory in packing biscuits for the soldiers. The biscuits are packed in tin boxes with sharp, rough edges, on which the hands of the girls are often cut. When the girls' hands are bleeding, they have to stop work—and stop earning money—as not a particle of blood must be seen on the biscuits. The father of one of the girls, who also works at Spratts, very sensibly made a cover to fit the boxes so that she can put it over every box she is filling with biscuits. As a result, though this girl is younger than many of the others, she can earn more money than they, because she has to lose no time on account of cut or poisoned fingers. One girl whose hand was poisoned as a result of these cuts, had to stay at home two days and have it lanced by a doctor.

I should like to suggest that in the case of the other girls—who do not seem to make enough complaints, or surely this matter would be put right—the firm should play the part of father and supply them with a protecting cover. This would only entail an initial outlay and would be a lasting boon to them.

Yours faithfully, C. DRAKE.

The girls have tried wearing gloves but these make them work slower, and are soon cut to pieces.

The Hull policemen are agitating for a rise in pay.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

Organiser: MISS MANICOM, 321 Roman Rd.

We are starting a Suffrage Club at once. Come on Friday evening at 8 p.m. Gifts of money, small tables, books, games and easy chairs would prove acceptable, and would be duly acknowledged in our paper. A formal opening night will be announced later.

Next Monday afternoon at 3 p.m., the speakers will be Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Miss Chesley, who will tell us about Votes for Women in the Suffrage States.

Have you paid your subscriptions yet? There is still time, begin this month.

Will all members be sure to keep next Sunday afternoon and evening free to join in the great demonstration to protest against the rise in the price of food. A procession will start from the Dock Gates at 1.30 p.m. Be sure to come and make the E.L.F.S. contingent a success. We shall finish up at Bow Baths in the evening. Tea can be had at the Women's Hall after the demonstration. Will you please let the organiser know how many to expect to tea?

A social is being held at 20 Railway St., Poplar, on Saturday next. Tickets can be obtained at 321 Roman Road for Bow members.

Another very energetic canvass is needed in Bow with the *Dreadnought*. Will someone volunteer to help?

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Feb. 20, 177.

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
MRS. MCCHEYNE & MRS. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Very pleasant meeting held on Tuesday evening. We wish to thank Miss Pankhurst for visiting us, and very pleased to hear she will continue to do so once a month. Four new members were made. Will not some of the members try to sell four papers each week? It would help the circulation so much. Members are also reminded that monthly contribution of one penny is now due, so will they please call in and pay as soon as possible?

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

On Sunday, March 7, we begin a series of Sunday meetings at 20 Railway Street. Members must do themselves credit and get these meetings well attended, as well as those on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons. The members had made up their minds to have a piano, and have now done so. They are subscribing to it and will be pleased to welcome some more subscribers at 1d. or 2d. weekly. Poplar members now collect for milk regularly outside Spratts' and Green's works. We should like a collector for Webb's in Stepney. Will someone who lives near give an hour from 1 to 2 for this?

On Tuesday, Miss Chesly, from America, proved conclusively what good work women have done in the United States since they have had the Vote. Shall be pleased to welcome more gentlemen to these evening meetings. Good meeting on Friday afternoon, Miss Barry speaker. Mrs. Walker spoke at Piggott St. in the evening. A good meeting and a number of papers sold.

Members and friends are heartily invited to our Social which will be held here on Saturday, Feb. 27, commencing 7.30 sharp.

Dreadnoughts sold, week ending Feb. 20—154.

Distributors—Mrs. Schlette, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Churcher, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Bird.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Monday's meeting was cancelled on account of General Meeting at Bow. Tuesday night we had our first sale at 55 Fife Rd. It realised £1 0s. 5d. There is to be another sale on Tuesday at 8 p.m., but members please note they must attend meetings on Thursdays in order to find out correct evening and time of sale. On Thursday at the members meeting at which there were 42 present, Miss Pankhurst gave an enthusiastic speech, and afterwards there was a good response to an appeal for things for the shop. We were also pleased to welcome nine new members. All members and friends are thanked for helping with the Public Hall meeting, which was a splendid one. The tickets are out for the Monthly Party for Saturday, 27th inst. All persons wanting one must come to the shop. It is our turn to entertain the last Saturday in March, so all be making up your minds what you can do to help with it. Many can help two people, but two people cannot do the lot. The speaker was unable to be at Beckton Road on Friday on account of illness.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

No meeting in Finsbury Park Sunday next as all members are asked to rally at the Great Demonstration in Trafalgar Square.

Date of our big North London meeting at which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has promised to speak will be announced later. Tickets 6d. and 3d. will be ready shortly. All members and sympathisers are asked to do all in their power to make this meeting well known and a great success.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. BONARIUS, 89 Wyke Road.

We are arranging to hold joint Social with E.L.F.S., Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, in aid of Babies' Milk Fund. Joint committee to meet next Tuesday, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m. Tickets for Social from Hon. Sec., or G. Stone, 4 Eglington Road, or any other members of R.S.P.U.

MORE MILK!

Canning Town members have decided to take another Special Milk Collection on Saturday.

The following members will collect:—
Mrs. Kuhn, Mrs. Reiff, Stratford Town Hall, Mrs. Mears, Miss Penn, Stratford Empire.

The following members will have a box at home for a week:—
Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Bachmayer, Mrs. Munroe.

Canning Town members are each giving what they can to furnish the new office, but they do not want their names published.

Four friends are promising a dozen tea cups and saucers; Miss C., a dozen plates; Mrs. P., milk jug and basin; A friend, tea pot and curtains; Mrs. S., chair; Mrs. M., chair; Mrs. B., half dozen teaspoons; Mrs. R., table; Mrs. S., piece of carpet.

The E.L.F.S. appeals urgently for help in the following ways:—

Clerical Work for our Central Office.

Clerical work should always be arranged for in advance. Friends are specially asked to try to give a regular one or more days a week, as work that can be counted on and arranged for is always worth twice as much as what is given merely at odd times.

Help in the Nursery

and in taking the nurse children out for walks. Help from friends who have experience of Montessori or Kindergarten work is especially needed.

We are anxious to get in touch with any friends who have experience in domestic economy and catering on a large scale.

WANTED.

Chest of drawers and fire irons for our Bromley centre.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS FOR SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES AND RELATIVES.

To protect the interests of all wives, mothers and other relatives of soldiers and sailors, to secure for them adequate separation allowances and pensions, to act on their behalf in all cases of neglect and delay, and generally to secure for them an improvement in their conditions

Meetings have been arranged for the Canning Town Public Hall, on March 4th, 8 p.m., and the East Ham Town Hall (Minor Hall), on March 8th, 8 p.m. Meetings are also to be arranged at Bromley and Islington shortly. Mrs. Hunter of Preston writes that she will be glad to help with a meeting at Preston to form a branch of the League. Membership cards may be had on application to Mrs. Geo. Lansbury, 103 St. Stephens Road, Bow, E., or Mr. J. Banks, 6 Campbell Road, Bow, E., from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow; 20 Railway Street, Poplar; Mrs. Thompson, 5 Alexandra Terrace, Goosley Lane, East Ham; Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Road, Canning Town.

EMPLOYERS AS SLAVE OWNERS.

Messrs. Cohen, Weenan and Co., cigar makers, have been trying to secure a magistrate's order to force a girl of 18 to continue working for them for five years. The prosecutors' foreman stated that the trade took seven months to learn, and that an apprentice should be a competent worker in 18 months; yet during the last three years of the girl's apprenticeship she was only to receive half of a journeyman's wages, if she could show "all work done to satisfaction."

The foreman said that the girl's wages averaged 4s. to 7s., but she protested, "I have only had that two weeks." The case was adjourned.

Attempts by Members of Parliament to induce the President of the Board of Education to insist even that children shall not be taken prematurely from school to become wage-earners, unless the medical inspector pronounces them physically fit, have hitherto proved useless.

THE "HERALD" LEAGUE (Bow Branch).

The above are holding a—
Grand Variety Concert
AT THE BOW BATHS HALL ON
March 6th.

The "Merrymaids" Concert Party will give a first-class performance, and tickets, *3d.* each, can be obtained from—
J. BERG (Sec.), 13 Vernon Road, or at THE WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

FROM A VEGETARIAN.

In this short article I only propose to consider staple foods which in themselves contain the *necessary body-building* elements requiring the simplest treatment in their preparation. All provisions have risen in price lately and fuel is very dear, and "Time is Money," especially from the workers' point of view!

I shall therefore only deal with the subject on these bare lines.

First, I must appeal to the plain commonsense of the workers themselves and ask them to consider quite seriously this question, which so vitally concerns them *now* and *always!* It is a difficult matter to uproot long-standing prejudices and fixed habits. The conservatism of the workers with regard to their food is no small hindrance to their relative prosperity and comfort.

One of the prejudices so hard to remove is the fixed belief that animal food is *necessary* to keep us in health, and that it gives us strength. This has been incontestably proved *not* to be the case. Besides this, meat is the dearest food you can buy if you want to be fed and properly nourished.

Beef contains 72 per cent. water: when you buy beef you buy one part food and three parts water. *Brown bread* and *cheese* are more than substitutes for butcher's meat of any kind, at a much cheaper cost. Bread and cheese are eaten just as they are sold, and thus save the cost of fuel. But, my friends, by bread I do not mean the *white* loaf called by that name—supposed to be the "Staff of Life," which it is *not by any means!* Genuine bread consists of the *whole* wheat-berry, stoneground, from which the outer part (containing the most valuable properties of the grain), has not been removed.

The difference between wholemeal and white bread is, that the former will nourish us and support life while the other will not. A dog fed only on white bread would be starved to death! Buy a good wholemeal loaf such as Allinson's, Bermaline, or that sold by the Aerated Bread Company and you will receive your full money's worth in *food*. Make your cakes and puddings with wholemeal flour—which is the same price as white flour.

CHEESE is a wonderful food. It contains 64 per cent. of nutriment while beef supplies only 28 per cent. Cheese is one of our cheapest foods. It is 10 per cent. richer in body-building proteid and fat than meat, and in addition is largely free from adulteration.

Don't buy White Sugars! Sugar is made white by a refining process in which injurious chemicals are used to produce the required whiteness. It is not so wholesome as the dark moist and more natural sugars and is not so economical, so buy the brown moist West Indian sugar.

Let your children have black treacle, which is pure, on their wholemeal bread or with their porridge. This they will enjoy and thrive on!

POTATOES should be boiled or steamed in their jackets *always*. "A potato peeled is a potato spoiled." Do not throw away the valuable salts which lie just underneath the skin. I cannot emphasise this too strongly! *These salts are so necessary to keep you in health*—and the true flavour of the potato is in its skin. Irish workers live chiefly on potatoes and they *never* peel them. It is waste of time and waste of food. Eat a *whole* potato not *half* of it.

Cocoa is nourishing, and more sustaining than tea, which like alcohol is purely a stimulant, and a harmful one when drunk so freely as it generally is.

Foods which are rich in starch, which keep the body warm, like wholemeal bread, oatmeal, barley, macaroni, rice, also vegetable foods, onions, carrots, lentils and beans, (which contain protein of a more suitable nature than that contained in meat), are *the foods the workers need!*

I have only given you a few facts about the natural and cheap foods which supply in themselves necessary nourishment, and which are cheap and easily obtainable. I have not entered into the question of combinations or the preparation of made dishes, but I shall be pleased to send to those who have the time and facilities for cooking in their homes a booklet "Pure Food for British Workers," written by Mrs. Backett, in which she tells us how to make nourishing and economical dishes at a rate of 1d. per head, on receipt of a postcard stamped, or unstamped. I hope to receive many applications for this most useful and helpful little book.

ALICE M. BUCHAN.
Ivy Cottage, Shropham, Thetford.

THE SWISS WOMEN'S DAY.

For several years the working women of the continent have met once a year to demand the emancipation of women—the vote for women.

This year the Swiss women are organising a tremendous Peace Demonstration on March 7th, and many organisations of Swiss women-workers have issued the following manifesto:—

Comrades,—The 5th Swiss Women's Day is over-shadowed by the sign of the War. All around us are burning towns and villages. Mountains high might be piled the corpses of men and youths who have been felled on hostile soil by the hands of their comrades. The wounded lament in pain and torment. Women and children weep in sorrow and misery at the loss of their brothers, husbands and fathers. Shall we postpone our persistent demand for votes until better times come? No! In face of the things that are taking place, our demand resounds stronger than ever!

"VOTES FOR WOMEN!

This call should be heard particularly by those who are against the War, who are against fratricide and the annihilation of culture, by those who are enemies of capitalism which bolsters up militarism. We women ought to be born anti-militarists.

No promises of governments shall blind us and induce us to expose the lives of our sons for capitalistic interests. We wish our sons and daughters to be heroic, but not on the battlefield, where people murder and are murdered. In our daily struggle against exploitation, and against the ignorance and indifference of the masses, we will sacrifice our lives if necessary. Swiss women raise their voices to the call of Votes for Women and Peace.

Down with War!"

RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

Mr. Theodore Dodd has written to the Press urging that meat, milk, and other nourishment shall be counted as medical relief, and given by Boards of Guardians to all necessitous old age pensioners, as the purchasing power of 5s. a week has now much decreased.

The Rochdale Local Representative Committee, was recently asked "to grant one nourishing meal per day to any and all nursing and expectant mothers, and to babies under three, whom the health visitors consider to be underfed." The resolution was heavily defeated, and the local Press referred to this and similar resolutions as "heroic and sweeping measures"—commending the committee for rejecting them.

The Star published the following letter the other day.

Central Bureau for the Employment of Women,
5 Princes Street,
Cavendish Square, W.

Dear Madam,

My brother, of the —— Guild, tells me that you are in difficulties owing to the War. We are administering a special grant from the National Relief Fund here especially for professional people, and we should be so very glad to be of any service. Will you call here as soon as you can, and ask for Mrs. Lock the Secretary of the Bureau Relief Committee? Of course, everything is done quite confidentially.

I am venturing to send a cheque for 20s. in case you may have immediate need for it. Please let me have a receipt. I am away myself until next week, but am writing Mrs. Lock to say you will come. It is a terrible time for many of us.

Yours faithfully,
MARY G. SPENCER.

[We have no objection to offer to the tone of the letter, but we wish the same courteous and generous solicitude were extended to the ordinary working men and women who are suffering through the War].

BREAD

Canadian Wheat has reached 67s. a quarter.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.